

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for detecting a wireless network, comprising:

receiving at a mobile device a signal having data
5 indicative of a location of the mobile device;

determining whether the mobile device is within a coverage area of a specified network based on the data; and

scanning for the specified network in response to at
10 least determining that the mobile device is within the coverage area of the specified network.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the signal comprises a base station broadcast message having a base
15 station identifier, further comprising:

extracting the base station identifier from the base station broadcast message;

comparing the base station identifier to a listing of base station identifiers for base stations at least
20 proximate to the specified network; and

scanning for the specified network in response to at least the base station identifier from the base station broadcast message matching one of the base station
25 identifiers in the listing of base station identifiers.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the base station identifiers for the specified network are stored in a network table at the mobile device.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the signal comprises a base station broadcast message having a latitude and longitude of the base station, further comprising:

5 extracting the latitude and longitude from the base station broadcast message;

comparing a location based on the latitude and longitude to the coverage area of the specified network; and

10 scanning for the specified network in response to at least the location being within the coverage area of the specified network.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the coverage
15 area is defined at the mobile device.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the coverage area is defined by at least a center, a shape and dimensional information for the coverage area.

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7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the signal comprises a global positioning satellite (GPS) signal, further comprising:

determining a location of the mobile device based on
25 the GPS signal;

comparing the location of the mobile device to the coverage area of the specified network; and

scanning for the specified network in response to at least the mobile device being within the coverage area of
30 the specified network.

8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the coverage area is defined at the mobile device.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the coverage area is defined by at least a center, of the coverage area, a shape and dimensional information for the coverage area.

10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the signal comprises a CDMA base station broadcast signal.

11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the specified network comprises a preferred network for a user of the mobile device.

12. The method of Claim 1, further comprising camping onto the specified network if available.

13. The method of Claim 1, further comprising determining whether the mobile device is within the coverage area of the specified network based on the data indicative of location and coverage data for the specified network corresponding in type to the data indicative of location.

14. A system for detecting a wireless network, comprising:

means for receiving at a mobile device a signal having data indicative of a location of the mobile device;

means for determining whether the mobile device is within a coverage area of a specified network based on the data; and

means for scanning for the specified network in response to at least determining that the mobile device is within the coverage area of the specified network.

15. The system of Claim 14, wherein the signal comprises a base station broadcast message having a base station identifier, further comprising:

means for extracting the base station identifier from the base station broadcast message;

means for comparing the base station identifier to a listing of base station identifiers for base stations at least proximate to the specified network; and

means for scanning for the specified network in response to at least the base station identifier from the base station broadcast message matching one of the base station identifiers in the listing of base station identifiers.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the base station identifiers for the specified network are stored in a network table at the mobile device.

17. The system of Claim 14, wherein the signal comprises a base station broadcast message having a latitude and longitude of the base station, further comprising:

5 means for extracting the latitude and longitude from the base station broadcast message;

means for comparing a location based on the latitude and longitude to the coverage area of the specified network; and

10 means for scanning for the specified network in response to at least the location being within the coverage area of the specified network.

18. The system of Claim 17, wherein the coverage
15 area is defined at the mobile device.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the coverage area is defined by at least a center, a shape and dimensional information for the coverage area.

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20. The system of Claim 14, wherein the signal comprises a global positioning satellite (GPS) signal, further comprising:

25 means for determining a location of the mobile device based on the GPS signal;

means for comparing the location of the mobile device to the coverage area of the specified network; and

30 means for scanning for the specified network in response to at least the mobile device being within the coverage area of the specified network.

21. The system of Claim 20, wherein the coverage area is defined at the mobile device.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein the coverage area is defined by at least a center, of the coverage area, a shape and dimensional information for the coverage area.

23. The system of Claim 14, wherein the signal comprises a CDMA base station broadcast signal.

24. The system of Claim 14, wherein the specified network comprises a preferred network for a user of the mobile device.

25. The system of Claim 14, further comprising means for camping onto the specified network if available.

26. The system of Claim 14, further comprising means for determining whether the mobile device is within the coverage area of the specified network based on the data indicative of location and coverage data for the specified network corresponding in type to the data indicative of location.

27. A system for detecting a wireless network, comprising:

logic encoded in media; and

the logic operable to receive at a mobile device a
5 signal having data indicative of a location of the mobile device, determine whether the mobile device is within a coverage area of a specified network based on the data and scan for the specified network in response to at least determining that the mobile device is within the
10 coverage area of the specified network.

28. The system of Claim 27, wherein the signal comprises a base station broadcast message having a base station identifier, the logic further operable to extract
15 the base station identifier from the base station broadcast message, compare the base station identifier to a listing of base station identifiers for base stations at least proximate to the specified network and scan for the specified network in response to at least the base
20 station identifier from the base station broadcast message matching one of the base station identifiers in the listing of base station identifiers.

29. The system of Claim 28, wherein the base
25 station identifiers for the specified network are stored in a network table at the mobile device.

30. The system of Claim 27, wherein the signal comprises a base station broadcast message having a latitude and longitude of the base station, the logic further operable to extract the latitude and longitude from the base station broadcast message, compare a location based on the latitude and longitude to the coverage area of the specified network and scan for the specified network in response to at least the location being within the coverage area of the specified network.

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31. The system of Claim 30, wherein the coverage area is defined at the mobile device.

32. The system of Claim 31, wherein the coverage area is defined by at least a center, a shape and dimensional information for the coverage area.

33. The system of Claim 27, wherein the signal comprises a global positioning satellite (GPS) signal, the logic further operable to determine a location of the mobile device based on the GPS signal, compare the location of the mobile device to the coverage area of the specified network and scan for the specified network in response to at least the mobile device being within the coverage area of the specified network.

34. The system of Claim 33, wherein the coverage area is defined at the mobile device.

35. The system of Claim 34, wherein the coverage area is defined by at least a center, of the coverage area, a shape and dimensional information for the coverage area.

36. The system of Claim 27, wherein the signal comprises a CDMA base station broadcast signal.

5 37. The system of Claim 27, wherein the specified network comprises a preferred network for a user of the mobile device.

38. The system of Claim 27, the logic further
10 operable to camp onto the specified network if available.

39. The system of Claim 27, the logic further
operable to determine whether the mobile device is within
the coverage area of the specified network based on the
15 data indicative of location and coverage data for the
specified network corresponding in type to the data
indicative of locations.

40. A method for detecting a preferred wireless network while camped onto an overlying macro network, comprising:

- receiving at a mobile device a base station
- 5 broadcast message having a base station identifier;
- extracting a base station identifier from the base station broadcast message;
- determining whether the mobile device is within a coverage area of a preferred network by comparing the
- 10 base station identifier to a listing of base station identifiers for base stations at least proximate to the preferred network stored in a network table at the mobile device;
- scanning for the preferred network in response to at
- 15 least the base station identifier from the base station broadcast message matching one of the base station identifiers in the network table; and
- camping onto the preferred network if available.

20 41. The method of Claim 40, wherein the mobile device camps onto the preferred network if available so long as signals are received from the preferred network at a minimal signal strength.

25 42. The method of Claim 41, wherein the mobile device camps onto the preferred network even if the mobile device is receiving signals from the overlying macro network at a strength greater than that of signals from the preferred network.

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43. The method of Claim 40, wherein the base station identifier is for a base station of the specified

network and the base station broadcast message is transmitted by a base station of a disparate network.

44. The method of Claim 40, wherein the base station identifier is for base station of a disparate network and the base station broadcast message is transmitted by a base station of the disparate network.

45. The method of Claim 40, wherein the base station identifier is for a base station of the specified network, the base station broadcast message is transmitted by a base station of a disparate network and the base station identifier is automatically updated by the base station of the disparate network based on radio discovery.

46. The method of Claim 40, further comprising backing off scanning after each scan and termination scanning for the specified network after a specified number of tries.

47. The method of Claim 40, further comprising terminating the scan upon leaving the coverage area.

48. The method of Claim 40, further comprising:
receiving at the mobile device the base station broadcast message having the base station identifier and a network identifier;

extracting the network identifier from the base station broadcast message;

determining whether the mobile device is within the coverage area of the preferred network by comparing the

network identifier to a stored network identifier for the preferred network; and

scanning for the preferred network in response to at least a network identifier from the base station
5 broadcast message matching the stored network identifier.